

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/northamerica/anasazi.html>

The Anasazi were located in the Four Corners region ( Northern New Mexico west of the Pecos River, southwestern Colorado, most of southern Utah, and northern Arizona south to the Little Colorado River). The Anasazi existed around two thousand years ago and are thought to be the ancestors of modern Indian tribes like the Hopi, the Zuni and the Pueblo. The earliest Anasazi probably settled in the plateau area because water was more available. They settled into three distinct population centers which were Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Kayenta and eventually spread out across the entire plateau. The Anasazi tradition can be divided into two parts: the Basket Makers and the Pueblo.

Paleo-Indian and Archaic people hunted and foraged in the canyon. Semi-permanent hunter-gatherers began cultivating squash and corn in the first millennium. Finally in AD 490, the first permanent villages were established due to an increase in annual rainfall. Around AD 1050, the communities of Chaco Canyon were at the peak of their activity. During this time there was trade of foods and other goods. The Anasazi had a diet of garden corn, squash, beans, gathered foods and hunted game. Because so much time and effort was spent feeding themselves, they focused very little on permanent homemaking.











